

## GENERAL NOTES

**Herring Gull attack on normal Golden-eye.**—On several days prior to April 11, 1943, an American Golden-eye (*Bucephala clangula americana*) fed by diving in the breaking waves in front of our home on the east shore of Put-in-Bay Harbor, South Bass Island, Ohio. The bird was a young male in changing plumage and therefore readily distinguishable from its fellows. I saw him in flight several times, and he appeared to be normal in every respect.

On the evening of April 11 he again appeared in front of our home, feeding about 50 feet offshore at the point where the huge waves began to curl and break. He usually waited until a wave was about to break over him before he dived. While he was diving, an adult Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) came flying along the shore, swooped down and attempted to grasp the duck with its bill. The duck escaped capture with a quick dive. This was repeated several times until finally the gull succeeded in obtaining a firm hold near the base of the duck's right wing. Both birds began to struggle furiously, the duck attempting to dive, the gull to drag the duck toward shore. Occasionally both birds were almost submerged by the breaking waves. After about two minutes the duck broke free and dived, coming up some 100 feet away, and the gull again attacked. The duck escaped by diving, and swam under water for several yards. On appearing at the surface he flew away. The gull started in pursuit, and coming up with the duck, made repeated though unsuccessful attempts to knock it down into the water. The duck began to out-distance the gull, which then gave up the chase. I have seen Herring Gulls attack wounded or dying birds but never before have I seen one attack an apparently normal individual.—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN, *F. T. Stone Laboratory, Ohio State University, Put-in-Bay, Ohio.*

**Vermilion Flycatcher at St. Marks, Florida.**—Observations made during the past three years at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, St. Marks, Florida, indicate that the Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*), is less rare—at least in northwestern Florida—than the single record from earlier years would indicate.

On December 26, 1940, while making a Christmas bird census, D. V. Gray and L. S. Givens observed a Vermilion Flycatcher, and collected it the following day. The specimen was identified by H. L. Stoddard of Thomasville, Georgia. According to A. H. Howell's "Florida Bird Life" (1932:327), the only other record of this species for Florida was a bird collected at Tallahassee on March 25, 1901, by R. W. Williams. In mid-December, 1941, and during the first week of January, 1942, a Vermilion Flycatcher was again observed on the St. Marks Refuge, by H. L. Stoddard. On December 10, 1942, Givens observed a female Vermilion Flycatcher there; and on December 24, while making a Christmas bird census, he saw an adult male and collected a female (probably the same bird seen December 10). In the same general location Givens again observed an adult male and female on January 1, 1943. These two birds were seen repeatedly at the Refuge throughout the winter of 1942-43. The last record was of a male seen by Givens, J. J. Lynch, and Clarence Cottam, not far from headquarters, on March 14, 1943.—LAWRENCE S. GIVENS, CLARENCE COTTAM, and DONALD V. GRAY, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

**A wren singing the songs of both Bewick's and the House Wren.**—On April 18, 1943, at my home in the northern part of Columbus, I was surprised to hear a wren singing the songs of both the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) and of the Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewicki*). The bird uttered the notes of one species for a few minutes, then changed to the notes of the other. Each song seemed perfectly characteristic of the species indicated. I heard the bird sing